



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## **First restaurant receives WSDA organic certification**

**OLYMPIA** – A Seattle restaurant has become the first to be certified as organic by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

The certification, issued to the Sterling Café, 2614 N.E. 55th St., Seattle, indicates that the restaurant has voluntarily chosen to comply with a set of standards ranging from the type of foods it purchases to the cleaners it uses.

According to the National Organic Program, restaurants or retail food establishments are not required to obtain organic certification.

However, restaurants serving organic food products may voluntarily choose to seek organic certification by demonstrating compliance with the organic handling requirements of the National Organic Standards.

This certification shows that the restaurant is following specific rules regarding the purchase, storage and preparation of food that is in compliance with federal standards. WSDA's Organic Food Program offers retail store and restaurant certification as part of its Organic Handler Program.

Once a restaurant receives this certification it is allowed to display both a USDA and WSDA logo and advertise itself as a certified organic establishment.

Questions or additional information about Organic Restaurant Certification should be directed to Brenda Book, Organic Program Specialist, (360) 902-2090, [bbook@agr.wa.gov](mailto:bbook@agr.wa.gov).

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